

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01407 021539Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 CU-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /081 W

-----045601 022233Z /70

R 021335Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9532

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANTANANARIVO 1407

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MA

SUBJECT: RADICAL LEFT JOINS UP WITH PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA

REFS: (A) ANTANANARIVO 1379, (B) 76 ANTANANARIVO 1465;

(C) 76 ANTANANARIVO 1451

1. SUMMARY. PRESS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 1 THAT FAR LEFT "PROLETARIAN PARTY," THE MFM/MFT, HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO NATIONAL FRONT AND THAT ITS LEADER, MANANDAFY RAKOTONIRINA, HAD BEEN NAMED BY PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA TO SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (SRC). THIS DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN GENERALLY PREDICTED SINCE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED THE HOPE IN HIS SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT CERTAIN STRAYED COMRADES OF THE LEFT WOULD JOIN HIS PROGRAM (REF A). END SUMMARY.

2. MFM/MFT STAND FOR THE MALAGASY EXPRESSION: STRUGGLER FOR POWER TO THE SMALL PEOPLE AND PEASANTS, BUT IS SELDOM REFERRED TO EXCEPT BY MFM INITIALS OR AS "PROLETARIAN PARTY."

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PAGE 02 ANTANA 01407 021539Z

ITS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS ARE MOSTLY THE STUDENTS AND UNEMPLOYED OF ANTANANARIVO AND THEY ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR ANARCHIC TENDENCIES AND WILLINGNESS TO RESORT TO ACTION AND VIOLENCE. IT WAS FORMED IN EARLY 1972 AND SERVED AS SOMETHING OF AN ADJUNCT TO THE MONIMA PARTY BUT BROKE WITHIN THE LATTER IN EARLY 1975 IN PROTEST AGAINST MONIMA'S SUPPORT OF RATSIRAKA. IT WAS OFFICIALLY DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER 1976 FOLLOWING

THE STUDENT RIOTS AND BURNING OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (REFS B & C). IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST RADICALLY INCLINED OF THE LEFTIST PARTIES.

3. MFM SEC-GEN MANANDAFY RAKOTONIRINA, BORN IN 1938, WAS FORMERLY SEC-GEN OF MONIMA AND IS NOW A PROFESSOR OF AGRONOMY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR AND HEAD OF ITS DEPARTMENT OF AGRO-SOCIAL SCIENCES. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESS PUBLISHED AUGUST 1 MANANDAFY EXPLAINED THAT HIS AGREEMENT TO JOIN THE FRONT AND THE SRC WAS DUE TO PRESENT REGIME'S HAVING TAKEN IN HAND THE STRATEGIC MEANS OF PRODUCTION FORMERLY HELD BY FOREIGN CAPITALISTS. HE CONSIDERED NNEXT TASK TO BE EXTIRPATION OF BOURGEOIS EGOTISM AND THE EXPANSION OF POWER OF PEASANTS AND WORKERS UP UNTIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT. ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL ELECTED BODIES, COOPERATIVES, AND SOCIALIST ENTERPRISES WOULD HELP INCREASE POPULAR POWER. ACCEPTANCE OF MFM IN POPULAR FRONT DESCRIBED BY MANANDAFY AS FRATERNAL, MOTIVATED BY SPIRIT OF COMMON STRUGGLE AND OF COHESION OF LEFTISTS. HE HOPED PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S APPEAL WOULD SOON BE HEEDED BY MONIMA MILITANTS. ON SINGLE PARTY, MANANDAFY SAID IT SHOULD NOT BE FORCED OR RUSHED BUT THAT IT WOULD COME ABOUT NATURALLY AS POLITICAL SENSITIZATION OF WORKERS AND FARMERS LED TO DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT.

4. ENTRY OF MFM INTO FRONT AND SRC, WHILE MONIMA IS NOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ANTANA 01407 021539Z

OUT, REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A CHANGE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN RATSIRAKA AND FAR LEFT, AS MONIMA USED TO SUPPORT HIM WHILE MFM DID NOT. IT IS ALSO SURPRISING IN VIEW OF MFM'S FORMER SUPPORT FOR PRIME MINISTER RAKOTONIAINA, WHO HAS BEEN REPLACED. LATTER HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN RENAMED BY PRESIDENT TO SRC.BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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From: ANTANANARIVO
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Type: TE
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